

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today issued the following statement regarding President Obama's proposed budget of \$3.8 trillion for the fiscal year 2011:

"When the 111th Congress began, the economy was on the brink of a depression. The economic crisis required that we take immediate and extraordinary steps to prevent a complete economic collapse. Not all of the steps we took to prevent a deeper recession were popular. And I continue to believe that some initiatives, like the bank bailout, were a mistake. But overall, Congress took the action that was needed to stop the recession from worsening.

"A year later, the economy is back from the brink and growing at its fastest pace in more than six years. But we're also facing record deficits, in part because of legislation that was necessary to save and create jobs, and jumpstart the economy. Now that the economy is back from the brink, we need to make a concerted effort to balance our budget and spend taxpayer dollars wisely.

"Earlier today, President Obama presented his proposed budget for fiscal year 2011. I am pleased that it includes more funding for Head Start and other education programs, and some, though not enough, funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), which reimburses states like California for the costs of incarcerating undocumented immigrants. I am also relieved that funding for crucial homeland security programs that affect Orange County, including the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), were not cut.

"I have some concerns, however, that the proposed budget will cut funding for some vital local programs. Funding for the Army Corps of Engineers, for example, was cut by \$500 million, reducing the amount of money available for the Santa Ana River Mainstem project and Prado Dam construction. Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants were also cut by over \$100 million, meaning that local law enforcement agencies will have fewer resources to retain and hire police officers.

"As the budget process moves forward, please be assured that I will fight tooth and nail to prevent these and other proposed cuts to critical programs from being enacted. In order to be effective, Congress has to cut programs that don't work or aren't necessary, but we must protect those programs that are helping struggling local families and businesses. We also have to eliminate some of the more misguided budget proposals, including the president's plan to

provide \$250 million for the purchase of an Illinois prison to house Guantanamo detainees.

"As we begin the work of creating a fiscally responsible budget, I am confident that we can reverse the decade-long decline that middle class families have experienced and restore economic security in Orange County. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Administration to implement a budget that reduces our debt while making smart investments in programs that have created jobs and improved our local communities."

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